

7-CIA

2021 Van Hise Ave, Madison, Wis 53705

Monday 21 Feb 1977

Executive Registry
77-6950

President Carter
The White House 20500

Dear President Carter:

I refer to the news story enclosed.

Your staff can easily verify that David Clarenbach is a legitimate and serious young legislator.

I hope you will see that he gets responsive and complete answers to his completely fair and very important questions.

Sincerely
Cyrus H Blanchard
(C. H. BLANCHARD)

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

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Finding out why isn't easy

Clarenbach bill attracts the CIA

By RON MCCREA
Of The Capital Times Staff

THE CIA has apparently taken a lively interest in a piece of Wisconsin legislation, and Rep. David Clarenbach is trying to find out why.

Clarenbach (D-Madison) said he learned Thursday that the supersecret federal intelligence agency made an inquiry on the progress of Assembly Bill 400, a measure designed to protect the privacy of personal records kept by state and local governments.

Clarenbach, who chaired the Legislative Council study committee which produced the bill, decided to find out why the CIA, which has no legal authority to investigate domestic matters, thought it had any business snooping in state affairs.

It all resulted in a merry chase.

The quest began with Robert Johnson, director of the State Records Center, who confirmed that a Miss Sanders of the CIA "Milwaukee Office" had called to ask for a copy of the bill and to ask that he keep the office posted on its progress.

Johnson gave Clarenbach the address Sanders had provided — a "G. C. Barry" at P. O. Box 92188, Milwaukee. Clarenbach searched for a Milwaukee phone number for either Barry or the CIA, but none was listed. Then he called the Milwaukee Post Office and was given the phone number for the bookholder. This turned out to be Barry's office.

"Hello — the Office," said the voice on the other end of the line. It was Miss Sanders. She said Barry was out, but she did give Clarenbach a Washington number to call.

THIS TURNED out to be Dennis Berrend, deputy assistant to the director of the CIA.

"He was very hesitant to talk," said Clarenbach. "He said, 'You're identifying yourself as a Wisconsin assemblyman, but we don't know who you are or how you got Barry's phone number.'"

Clarenbach agreed to send questions in writing. But he pressed for some explanation of the Milwaukee operation.

"Berrend said that Barry's office is one of 36 offices around the country which make up the Domestic Collection Division. The Milwaukee office is just a one-man branch of the Chicago office," Clarenbach said. "He said the collection offices are for citizens who want to volunteer information on foreign governments or intrigues."

Clarenbach asked Berrend, "If the office is supposed to be for civic-minded citizens, why isn't the number in the phone book?" Berrend replied

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● Clarenbach's bill attracts the CIA

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that the citizens who contact the office do so on a regular basis, and they are the only ones given the number.

"And by the way, Mr. Clarenbach, how did you get the number?" Berrend asked.

Clarenbach decided to try another tack. He called the CIA general number in Washington. The operator referred him to Public Relations, which referred him to the Legislative Council Office, which referred him to the Office of Legislation.

ROBERT BARR, the office director, told him that his office is the clearinghouse for all inquiries from politicians. Barr said he would "get back to him" to confirm whether Barry is a CIA employee, but so far Clarenbach hasn't heard anything.

Clarenbach then had to call the Domestic Collection Division directly. The operator said it was against the rules for any calls to be transferred there. She referred him to Organization, which referred him to Security.

"I talked to Tim Harrington, the chief of headquarters security, and he said it was 'almost a law' that no calls can be referred to Domestic Collection. I don't know how something can be 'almost a law,'" the legislator said. Clarenbach gave up trying to get an answer by phone and instead wrote a letter to Berrend. It says in part:

"The request to be kept informed on the progress of this bill was made to the State Records Center by telephone. Why was this request not made in writing and directed to the secretary of the department, my office, or the Legislative Council under whose auspices the study was conducted?

"Additionally, as I understand it, your agency is not responsible for domestic surveillance. Under what authority and for what reasons are you interested in my proposal? How long has the CIA been interested in state legislative matters, and what kind of information do you collect? What is your legal authority for this function?"

Clarenbach is waiting for the answers.

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